

THE FARM AND HOME

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMERS AND HOUSEWIVES.

Experience of a Farmer in Corn Cultivation—When the Cult When Young—A Sample Dairy Cow—Plant Trees About the House.

Cultivating Corn.

I notice in your Journal for June 25 a rather dogmatic assertion of the old statement that shallow cultivation is the best for corn. I do not wish to be dogmatic in any respect, but may I make a plain statement of experience? Three years ago I had a small patch planted to corn, on ground so infested with quackgrass that the entire piece turned by the plow in each furrow was a felt mass of roots, felt almost as compactly as an old hat.

It required longer to harrow up enough dirt to mark rows in than it did to dig the piece. The spring was wet with us, and the quack came up quick and grew faster than the corn. At the first cultivation I had to have the horse led through the rows, as the corn was so much higher than the corn as to hide it from all view of the man behind the horse. After going twice in each row, back and forth—and the same crosswise—it was barely possible to scrape up enough dirt with the hoe to dress the hills. In three days after the task was completed the field needed hoeing again. It got another hoeing, and again it was necessary to go twice in each row and set the cultivator as deep as possible, in order to worry and shake enough dirt out of the quack roots to fill the hole.

I was taught, of old, that corn roots spread widely and were injured by deep and rough cultivation—must be treated tenderly and with shallow scratching. But in this particular case a condition confronted me, not a theory. If I didn't kill the quack, the quack would kill the corn. And the only way to kill the quack was to keep tearing it up from the bottom, or as near the bottom as I could get. So I kept at what I rather scornfully considered "destructive cultivation," as deep as I could force the narrowest horse-hoe teeth, and as close to the corn hills as I could come with safety.

Seven times I went over that patch in this way, first tearing up the ground between the rows as deeply as I could, north and south, and east and west, with the horse hoe, and then following it with the hand hoe to chop off or cover up what quack the cultivator left, and to straighten up the very numerous hills of corn that were over set or half torn out. It was the deepest and hardest cultivation I ever gave any corn crop I ever tried to raise. It began deep and harsh when the corn was not over two inches high; it continued deep and harsh till the corn was beginning to tassle. And the crop was the largest, in point of shelled corn and stover, that I ever raised from a patch of similar size. Let me add that, while the spring was wet, the summer was one of the hottest and driest that could be asked for.—A. P. Hilsbeck, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Dehorning Calves.

I consider that the question of dehorning is settled in favor of no horns, and believe the proper time to do the job is when the calf is less than a week old. I use caustic potash, which is more effective than lunar caustic. I have tried the latter and failed entirely to remove the horn. Buy 5 cents' worth of caustic potash and keep it tightly corked in a dry place and when a calf is dropped and in a few days old clip the hair close around the little button where the horn is developed, then take a piece of the caustic from the bottle (recock at once or it will dissolve from the moisture of the air), wrap the piece removed with cloth or leather, or use gloves to protect your fingers, hold the calf's head firmly so that he will not cause you to get the caustic in his eyes, and by pressing the caustic rub the buttons with it until the tough skin is eaten away and rubbed off and the blood begins to come. Change from one side to the other frequently and keep the caustic moist by dipping it in water occasionally. Apply over a place not larger than a five-cent piece and do not use the horny button piece and you will never see a horn again here, and the poll will be perfect. This process will take five or six minutes and must be thoroughly done to avoid failure.

Give this detailed statement of my method because I frequently hear those who have tried this say it is a failure. Thoroughness is the key to success.—W. H. Colquhoun, in the Farmer.

Plant Trees.

The American Agriculturist recently published a picture of a farmer's home in Pennsylvania. The editor called it "Beautiful Farm Home," but the farmer was mistaken. No farm house is beautiful which has not trees about it and that was out near the barn. It is that farmers will let their year pass without putting out a tree to beautify their homes? It is an unimportant sight to see farmers' lawns set down in the corner of a field and as much as a bush near them. In village people are often just negligent, but there is less excuse for the farmer than for them, for the farmer usually has the young trees at hand, and could put them out where he would only do it. If the farmer in this country would line their lanes with trees, and plant their fields and around their houses with them, there would be less urgent demand for new forest reservations.—Farm News.

A Texas Dairy Cow.

The American Experiment Farm they call a cow. "Yentje Netherland," she ought to be a Holstein cow, and her name, which has given 707.5 pounds of milk in seven consecutive months, or more than 100 pounds of milk a day, in thirty days she gave 2,950 pounds of milk, or nearly 100 pounds a day for thirty consecutive days. When I think of 100 pounds you have an idea of the amount of milk given by a cow. Another way of putting it is to think of four big buckets of three gallons each, and a quart of one day made four pounds and a half ounce of butter, containing 50 per cent. of butter fat. Of course, this is an exceptional animal,

and it is fed on exceptional food, that is, food which stimulates milk production. The instance is an ideal one rather than a practical one. It may be used as an illustration, but hardly as something to be worked for by the average dairy farmer. The importance of good cows to make good milk, however, is all apparent. Recently the State of Minnesota took the first prize at the butter, Minnesota, hard as it is to say, has made more progress in the dairy business than has Iowa. The farmers there have been longer in the business of special dairy farming. It Iowa it has not been made a special business except in a few counties prominent among which are those of Northern Iowa. The Minnesota farmers have succeeded better, it may be, because they have greater facilities to overcome the land and the climate both being more harsh than they are in Iowa.—Iowa State Register.

Co-operative Ice.

A little organized co-operation in any farming community where ice-cutting privileges exist, will secure an abundant supply of ice for all purposes for the entire season or neighborhood. In some localities it is customary to do the threshing in turn, all participating in the use of the threshing machines and power, as only very extensive farmers find it profitable to have an outfit for their own exclusive use.

In a similar manner the benefits of a cold storage may be obtained. The houses may be owned by individuals, or by a few families who may be living near enough together to conveniently use them in common. The tools and outfits for cutting and handling the ice may be owned by a few enterprising young men, who can fill a number of houses yearly by contract; or the appliances may be joint property of all those having cold-storage houses, who may combine to secure them, and also combine their labor in securing the ice crop. This work is done when the ordinary duties of the farm are light, and other interests would not be interfered with.

The practical advantages of this plan readily presents themselves. An outfit of tools necessary to harvest one hundred tons of ice can just as well be kept by ten or fifteen times the quantity and to better advantage. But, allowing that the labor in getting out one hundred tons of ice is the same per ton that it is for one thousand tons, the cost of the tools per ton of ice harvested is only one-tenth as much in the latter case. The tools are durable and will last many years.

Regarding the cost of ice when stored in place in the ice chamber, it would be difficult to quote an amount which would cover all cases. Locality and tract have much to do with determining the cost. Ice twelve or sixteen inches thick, cut in small quantities and placed in the ice chamber, would cost, on an average, for labor about 50 cents per ton. Where cut on a large scale the cost for labor in cutting and storing would be less than half this amount. Farmers can ill afford to do without this necessary article.—New England Farmer.

Farm Notes.

It is not necessary to feed geese, ducks or turkeys during the warm season if they have the privilege of a range. Insects, grass and seeds are plentiful, and the fowls can secure more food than they can consume.

When spraying the trees and vines keep in view the fact that for fungus diseases the Bordeaux mixture should be used, and for insects that grass use paris green or London purple. Kerosene emulsion is applied to destroy insects that suck juices. It is important to use the proper remedy for the purpose, or the labor may be wasted.

The time to market an animal is when it is ready. To keep it in order to add a little more weight may be expensive. More fat can be put on an animal in summer than in the winter season, and in proportion to cost it can be done at less expense. The greatest gain is from young stock, because of rapid growth, but old animals take on fat more readily, and manure from them is more valuable than from growing stock.

Much of the baled hay that comes to market is musty. Most farmers, when they bale hay, think it need not be very dry, as the bales are small. But the amount of hay packed in them is always sufficient to get up a violent ferment unless the hay is properly dried before it is put into the bale. If there were more care used in baling hay the price for it would be much better than it is, as the hay itself would be better worth it.

Sometimes we see trees which dry up the grass under them, while in the same neighborhood will be trees under which the grass will grow greener than where it is not thus shaded. An orchard that has long been plowed deep has most of its feeding roots below those of the grass. On the other hand, under the trees where grass has grown the true feeding roots come near the surface, and when a dry time comes the grass under it lacks moisture and is very soon killed.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Downing, Hopkins & Company's Review of Trade.

The short sellers of wheat have but a single argument left to support their views, viz: The admitted fact that the wheat crop of this country will be at least 100,000,000 bushels larger than that of last year. The current news during the week has been extremely bullish and developments have materially strengthened the position of speculative buyers. Probably the most important announcement was Beerholm's estimate placing the European shortage compared with last year at 24,000,000 bushels. This has been emphasized and confirmed by the active cash demand and enormous sales for export. An additional aid in enhancing values has been furnished by the farmers stacking their wheat at a greater extent than usual. Should the coal miners' strike continue a fortnight longer it will prove a powerful, although unnatural, factor in enhancing values, and in all probability result in a more serious congestion of the market for September delivery than has prevailed for July contracts. The promise of an abundant wheat crop in America, the absence of competition in supplying the requirements of importing countries, and the consequent increased export demand for American wheat, all tend to benefit the American farmer. Wheat will prove a profitable purchase on all reactions and the general tendency is toward a still higher range of values.

The American visible this week shows a decrease of 164,000 bushels, and now totals 17,650,000 bushels against 46,429,000 a year ago. There is much to be said regarding both sides of the corn market, but after all it is still a fact that values are extremely low—due to panic and overproduction. The growing crop is not yet assured, and the enhanced values ruling for wheat compared with producing years, the increasing activity in general trade, corn must participate to a greater or less extent in the general improvements, according as the crop promise to be above or below that of last year. In any event, present values promise to be well maintained, and there is little if any inducement for speculative short selling. Should the growing crop meet with any mishap much higher values will quickly obtain.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 78c; Valley, 81c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$4.15; Graham, \$3.55; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 35c@40c; choice gray, 37c@38c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$16@16.50; brewing, \$18@19 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$14 per ton; middlings, 21; shorts, \$15.50. Hay—Timothy, \$12@13; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10@11; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton. Eggs—12@12 1/2c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 35c@40c; fair to good, 30c; dairy, 25c@30c per roll. Cheese—Oregon, 11 1/2c; Young America, 12 1/2c; California, 9@10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@3.50 per dozen; broilers, \$1.50@2.75; geese, \$3@4; ducks, \$2.50@3 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10c@11c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35c@45c per sack; new potatoes, 50c per sack; sweets, \$1.90@2.25 per cental. Onions—California, new, red, \$1.25; yellow, \$1.50 per cental. Hops—10c@11 1/2c per pound for new crop; 1899 crop, 4c@6c. Wool—Valley, 11@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7c@9c; mohair, 20c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 2 1/2@3 1/2c; dressed mutton, 4 1/2c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4; light and feeders, \$2.50@3; dressed, \$3@4.25 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3; cows \$2.25; dressed beef, 4@5 1/2c per pound. Veal—Large, 3@3 1/2c; small, 4 1/2c per pound.

Seattle Markets.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 18c; ranch, 10@12c. Cheese—Native Washington, 10c@11c; California, 9 1/2c. Eggs—Fresh ranch, 18@19c. Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10c@11c; spring chickens, \$2@3; do ducks, \$2.50@3.75. Wheat—Feed wheat, \$28 per ton. Oats—Choice, per ton, \$23. Corn—Whole, \$22; cracked, per ton, \$22; feed meal, \$22 per ton. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$21. Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5 1/2c; small, 6c; pork, 4 1/2c; veal, 7c. Fresh Fish—Halibut, 4 1/2c; salmon, 4c@5c; salmon trout, 7c@8c; Bombers and sole, 3c@4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2 1/2@4c.

San Francisco Markets.

Wool—Choice footling, 9@12c; San Joaquin, 6 months' @ 9c; do year's staple, 7@9c; mountain, 11@13c; Oregon, 10@13c per pound. Hops—7c@9c per pound. Hay—Wheat, \$12@15; wheat and oat, \$11@14; oat, \$10@12; river barley, \$7@8; best barley, \$9@12; alfalfa, \$7@8.50 clover, \$7.50@9. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$18.50@22; California bran, \$14@15 per ton. Potatoes—New, in boxes, 40@60c. Onions—New, red, 70@90c; do new silverskin, 55@95c per cental. Fresh fruit—Apples, 30c@30c per small box; do large box, 40@65c Royal apricots, 20c@35c common cherries, 15c@25c; Royal Anne cherries, 25c@40c per box; currants, \$1.00@1.50 per bush; peaches, 25c@40c; pears, 20c@40c; cherry plums, 20c@30c per bush. Cheese—Fancy mild, new, 8c; fair to good, 7 1/2c per pound. Butter—Fancy creamery, 22@23c; do seconds, 20@21c; fancy dairy, 19@20c; good to choice, 16@18c per pound. Eggs—Store, 11 1/2@14c; ranch, 16c@20c. Eastern, 12@14c; duck, 14c per dozen. Citrus fruit—Navel oranges, \$1 @2; seedlings, 75c@1.25; Mexican lemons, \$1.50@3.50; common lemons, \$1@2.50 per box.

Electrically welded steel barrels are being made in England. They are used to hold lubricating and lighting oils and acetone, which is an element in the manufacture of cordite.

LIFE AT SKAQUAY.

Our Trail Already Blocked and More Men and Horses Coming.

Seattle, Aug. 13.—A special to the Post-Intelligencer from Mount Vernon says: A number of letters were received here today from Mount Vernon people who left Seattle on the steamer Queen for the Yukon, telling of life at Skaguay. In a letter to E. W. Ferris, dated Skaguay, August 13, ex-City Marshal Rowan says: "We got here on the 26th of July. I am camped here for the winter. The rest of the men are about four and a half miles from here, packing their outfits. They had them hauled for three miles at one cent a pound. They have been four days in making one mile, and it is about 36 miles from where they are to the lakes. It is impossible for them to make it. It is raining all the time. They boys are discouraged, and I feel sorry for them, as they cannot get to the summit before snow falls.

"There are about 400 horses and 700 men on the trail. You can't get anybody to pack for you. They are offering \$30 per 100 pounds to pack over to the lakes. There were 105 head of horses, which came over on the Islander, and they will block the trail in the next 10 days. I got about three miles from here, and I came back as soon as I found I could not take it. There are lots of men camped here waiting for snow. I am taking it easy, and working for \$2.50 and board. I am going in in February. This is the greatest excitement I ever saw, men packing in the rain in all the rigs a man can think of to pack on. I counted 107 tents here last night, and they average from two to six men to the tent. There were lots of them that sold out on the Islander, and went back. Outfits that cost \$150 are selling all the way from \$30 to \$100 each. They are offering 30 cents a pound for packing 3 1/2 miles. An Indian was killed at Dyea this morning for stealing. The inspector and mounted police are at Lake Bennett, and it will cost each man about \$50 to pass. Two-horse teams are making from \$60 to \$100 a day."

A LETTER FROM DAWSON.

The Camp Well Supplied With Provisions at the Present Time.

Tacoma, Aug. 13.—B. L. Laughlin writes from Dawson, Alaska, under date of June 16: "Five-hundred-foot claims on two creeks are selling at prices ranging from \$10,000 to \$150,000 each. There are about 150 claims that are good on these two creeks. An acquaintance bought a claim in February for \$45,000 on the installment plan, and was to make the last payment July 1, but did not need so much time, for he paid the last day we arrived. He has 480 feet of ground left, and a surplus of \$15,000. The pay streak is from 40 to 80 feet wide, and the pay is in and on the bed-rock. These are drift diggings, and have to be worked in the winter time. The ground is from 15 to 35 feet deep. "Times will be quiet here until about October 1, when there will be work for 4,000 or 5,000 men. There is a small sawmill here, and lumber is worth \$130 per 1,000, and scarce at that. The camp was not struck until August, and it is estimated that the output is about \$2,500,000 to date, and will probably be \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000 next year. The companies think they can supply sufficient fuel for the winter. There will be about 1,100 people come from the outside this year, and I expect as many thousand, or more, next year. The weather is nice at the present time.

"The Circle City camp is about deserted, and the claim owners are offering \$12.50 per day and board. "The camp is well supplied with provisions at the present time. Flour is worth \$12 a hundred, bacon 50 and 60 cents a pound, beans 12 1/2c, coffee 75 cents, milk 50 cents per per can, table fat 75 cents per can, shovels \$3 each. If any one should want to come here this summer or fall I would advise them to come by the mouth of the Yukon. In early spring, they should come by the land and water route."

THE WHEAT SHORTAGE.

Europe Will Draw Heavily on the United States.

London, Aug. 13.—The Times, in its financial article today, says: "It is estimated by persons in a position to form an opinion that at least 13 per cent more wheat than is usually needed by Europe will be wanted this year. Owing to short Russian, French and Austro-Hungarian crops, the United States will be the only country able to meet this extra demand."

Chicago Wheat Goes Up.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—September wheat advanced 3 cents today, and closed strong at 81 1/2c, the highest point touched by September wheat since 1891. Crop news from the Northwest, and the decline in condition shown by the government crop report were the chief factors.

Dynamite Explosion in a Mine.

St. Louis, Aug. 12.—W. H. Madler and Taylor Dodson were killed today by an explosion of dynamite in a lead mine near Bonne Terre, Mo. Two others were seriously injured.

Good Catch of Sea Otters.

San Francisco, Aug. 13.—A private letter from Captain Smaling, of the schooner Theresa, now in Behring sea, gives news of the catch of the sea otter hunters up to July 8. The best of luck has followed the men, as the four schooners had killed 63 otters, the skins of which are worth from \$50,000 to \$40,000.

Passengers are to have motion to board and leave train which arrive at the Paris Exposition of 1900 by means of a new system devised by a French civil engineer.

The idea was suggested by the moving sidewalk at the world's fair. The outer circumference of a circular platform is to travel at the same rate as the passing train. There will be no danger upon entering the platform from a staircase in the center, where the speed is comparatively low. In advancing toward the edge the increase is gradual, and anticipated. The station attendant overlooks the entire platform from a tower in the center, and should there be a heavy crowd he causes the train, by means of switches, to run around the station, allowing ample time to discharge and take on all passengers. It is proposed to work trains and platforms at a speed of 7 1/2 miles an hour.

Corn as Fuel.

A bulletin issued by the experimental station of the university of Nebraska, giving results of tests of the value of corn as fuel, shows that the burning of corn will be a proceeding greatly to the farmer's benefit when the price of corn is low and that of coal high. The tests showed that one pound of screened Wyoming coal, costing \$6.95 per ton, evaporated 1.9 times as much water in a steam boiler as could be evaporated by one pound of good grade of yellow dent corn on the ear, not thoroughly dry. The following figures show the value of corn per bushel as fuel when coal of the same variety as that used in the tests is selling at the prices given: Coal, per ton, \$4.87, \$5.41, \$5.95, \$6.49, \$7.11, \$7.57, \$8.11; corn, per bushel, 9, 10c, 11c, 12c, 13c, 14c, 15c.

AN ADMIRABLE LEGACY.

A tendency to rheumatism is undoubtedly inherited. The most effective means of checking this tendency, or of removing it, is the use of Chamberlain's Stomach Bitters. It not only cleanses the system against their harmful consequences, but stimulates the kidneys, and relieves the system of its ailments, such as kidney complaint, dyspepsia and nerve disturbance.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word, "CASTORIA," and "FITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark. I, Dr. Samuel Fitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "FITCHER'S CASTORIA," the name that has borne and does now bear the face of a young child. CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "FITCHER'S CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper, and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which CHAS. H. FLETCHER is President.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian tube. When this gets inflamed, you feel a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness results, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever. Nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which, if neglected, will lead to inflammation of the mucous surface of the middle ear.

We will give one Hundred Dollars for any case of deafness cured by our medicine, which cannot be cured by any other means. Sold by F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists. The Hall's Family Pills are the best.

THE TURN OF LIFE.

Owing to modern methods of living, not one woman in a thousand approaches this perfectly natural change without experiencing a train of very annoying and sometimes painful symptoms. Those dreadful hot flashes, sending the blood surging to the heart until it seems ready to burst, and the faint feeling that follows, sometimes, sometimes with chills, as if the heart were going to stop for good, are symptoms of a dangerous nervous trouble. The nerves are crying out for assistance. The cry should be heeded in time. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was prepared to meet the needs of woman's system at this trying period of her life.

Proposed Tax on Franchises.

Fort Scott, Kan., Aug. 13.—A local newspaper announces that the councilmen are insisting that an occupation tax be assessed against the ministers of the town as a means of raising revenue to make up the deficiency occasioned by the closing of the saloons. The council is wrestling with an occupation tax, and some of the members refuse to support the measure unless it shall include ministers.

Chicago has a penny savings bank for school children, inaugurated by the Civio Federation.

\$1000.00

Who will get it?

Schilling's Best tea is not only pure but it is fresh-roasted.

What is the missing word?

Get Schilling's Best tea at your grocer's; take out the Yellow Ticket (there is one in every package); send it with your guess to address below before August 31st.

One word allowed for every yellow ticket. If only one person finds the word, he gets one thousand dollars. If several find it, the money will be divided equally among them.

Every one sending a yellow ticket will get a set of cardboard creeping babies at the end of the contest. Those sending three or more in one envelope will receive a charming 1898 calendar, no advertisement on it.

Besides this thousand dollars, we will pay \$150 each to the two persons who send in the largest number of yellow tickets in one envelope between June 15 and the end of the contest—August 31st.

Cut this out. You won't see it again for two weeks.

Address: SCHILLING'S BEST TEA SAN FRANCISCO

POWER FOR PROFIT. Hercules Gas Engine Works. Bay St., San Francisco, Cal.

Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt. Makes People Strong. SAN DEN ELECTRIC BELT CO. 433 West Washington St., Portland, Or.

"Complete Manhood" and How to Attain It. ERIC MEDICAL CO., 68 Niagara St., BUFFALO, N. Y.

BASE BALL GOODS. Special Rates TO CLUBS. WILCOX & FINCK CO., 218-220 Market St., San Francisco, Cal.

DRUNK TAPE WORMS. ALBANY COLLEGE ALBANY, OREGON. PORTLAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.